

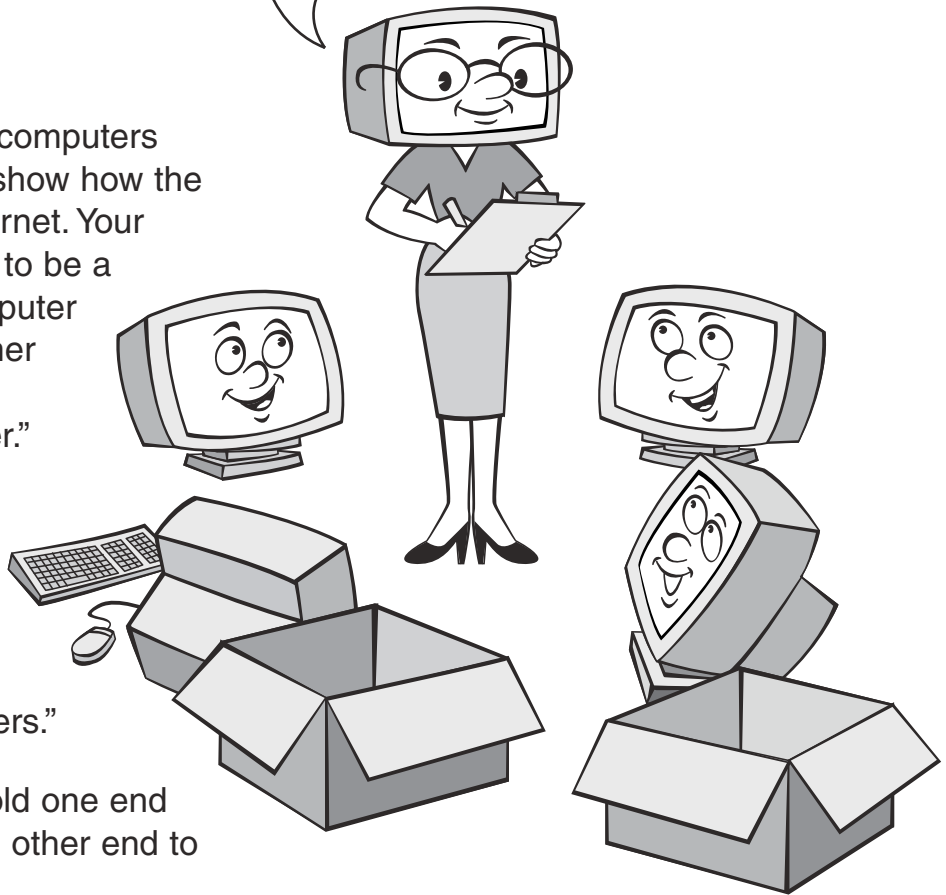
What is a network?

Welcome, new computers, to our school! It's so nice to see your shiny monitors fresh from the factory. Our goal today is to get every classroom connected to the Internet. Most of you will be classroom computers. Only one of you will connect the classroom computers to the Internet. Now, please follow the directions below.

Make a Model

Make a model to show how computers connect in a network. Then show how the network connects to the Internet. Your teacher will pick one person to be a "hub." A hub allows any computer to communicate with any other computer in the network. Everyone else is a "computer."

1. If you are a "computer," get one piece of string.
2. If you are the "hub," stand in the center of a circle formed by all the "computers."
3. If you are a "computer," hold one end of your string and give the other end to the "hub."
4. Your teacher will pick one "computer" standing on the edge of the circle to connect to the Internet. This person gets a second string and holds one end. The other end is free and stands for the connection to the Internet.
5. After you make the model, draw and label a diagram to show how your model looked.

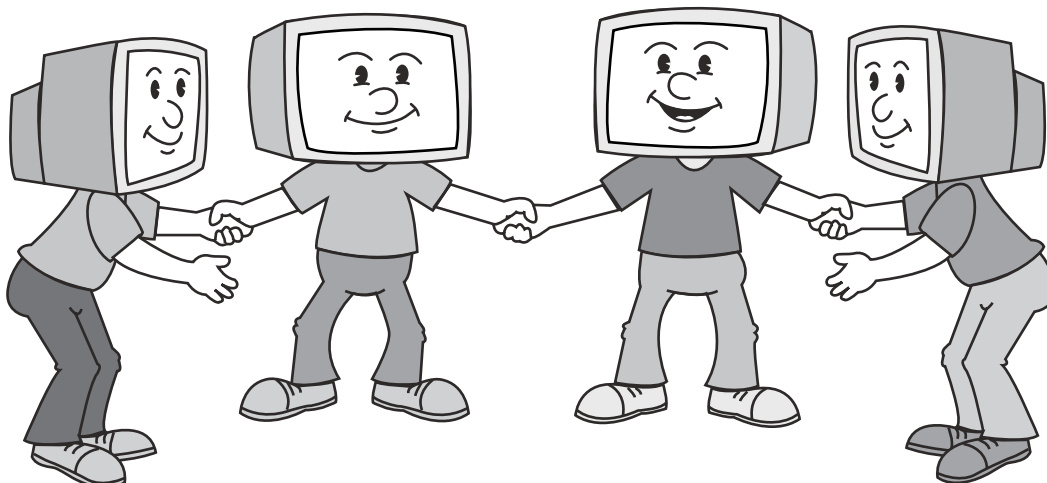


Name _____ Date _____

How do computers communicate?

Think about all of the computers that are connected in your school. Such a group of computers is called a **network**. Computers in a network can communicate with one another. Many schools around the world have networks. So do businesses, universities, and governments. All of these networks are connected to one another in a huge worldwide network. This network of networks is called the **Internet**.

The Internet is made of millions of computers around the world. Most communicate through copper wires or glass fibers. Others communicate through the air, like cell phones do.



How does the Internet work?

Being connected is not enough. Computers must also understand one other. Just like people, they must speak the same language in order to communicate. Computers connected to the Internet exchange instructions that allow them to “talk” to one another.

Who owns the Internet?

People, schools, and businesses own different parts of the Internet. These parts include computers, cables, and other equipment. However, nobody owns the whole Internet. The Internet is shared. Anyone who pays a fee can use it. Everyone owns it.